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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Schoenwalde Airfield

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 2 March 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 24 January 1951, soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were being trained with four AA guns near the Schoenwalde (N 53/Z 66) airfield. (1)
2. An inspecting party composed of a major, a captain, and a senior lieutenant wearing gold-bordered blue epaulets was quartered in the hospital of the field since 24 January. This inspecting party [redacted] had come from Doeberitz (N 53/Z 65), inspected the officers' billets, the landing field, and the work done on the aircraft. (2)
3. Airfield commandant Colonel Vereshchinski (fnu) used passenger car [redacted]. It was learned that Major Gorkin (fnu) was chief surgeon of the airfield hospital and that Major Utin (fnu) was his deputy. (3)
4. [redacted]
5. From 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 25 January 1951, there was flying with twin-engine aircraft fitted with double rudder assemblies and from 3 to 7 p.m. flying was done with single-engine planes. From 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 26 January the twin-engine planes at the field practiced flying while the biplanes flew from 3:30 to 5 p.m. From 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on 27 January the single-engine planes practiced firing at an air sleeve towed by a biplane. The sky was overcast.
6. On 29 January tank trucks [redacted] came from the landing field. The officers of Unit [redacted] had radio training sets the size of cigar boxes in their rooms. The sets were fitted with batteries. The replacing of batteries was observed several times. Distinct buzzer sounds were heard when the officers were practicing with these sets. [redacted] (4)
7. It was learned that Captain Zleta was in charge of the landing field. (5) Four new AA guns were emplaced at the edge of the field. Soldiers were trained daily on these guns.

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Truck [] loaded with bedsteads entered the field on 31 January. On 29 January a slip of paper was given to source with the remark that he should call at the clothing depot. (6)

8. From 7:30 to 10 a.m. on 2 February single-engine aircraft practiced flying. On 3, 4, and 5 February, 31 single-engine aircraft and four biplanes were observed outside the hangars. Twin-engine planes were not seen. (7) However, a transfer of these planes was not observed.

9. On 4 February the unit equipped with single-engine aircraft had an alert practice. At 10 a.m. the siren was sounded for about five minutes. The crew members, carrying small suitcases, ran to their planes. The crews remained at their aircraft until the alert was over at 2 p.m.

10. Officers were continually transferred [] Captain Kamerov (fnu) being transferred on 5 February. (8) The officers left by truck. They said that they were first taken to Frankfurt/Oder and from there by rail to the U.S.S.R. When the trucks returned they were occupied by new officers. So far only pilots and technical officers have been affected by this transfer.

11. Captain Petrov did not use a passenger car of his own but that of Colonel Vereshchinski. Pilots and technicians wore special insignia on their breast. Pilots and technical officers wore flying suits. The pilots wore separate jackets and trousers. The suits were dark grey, with sheep's skin lining. The front side of the jacket was fastened with a zipper, one about 10 cm long was also seen at the bottom of the sleeves. Pockets with zippers were fitted at the backs of the trousers. Headphones and fur boots with leather soles were also worn. The technicians wore the same jackets as the pilots. Their trousers were made of a light plush and were marked by a British stamp ski-type. All flying suits were worn without insignia. In summer the crews flew in their uniforms.

12. The officers [] would be on duty from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m. It was unknown whether the [] had the same duty hours. The officers could leave the barracks installation only after receiving a permit by their commanding officer. The [] were restricted to their quarters and could leave the field only on official missions. On Saturdays duty hours would end at 1 p.m. Since the unit was, for practical purposes, always on the alert special alert stages are very difficult to determine. (9)

13. Between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. on 8 February, 14 single-engine, low-wing mono-planes fitted with in-line engines and a weapon pointing to the rear were lined up in a row in front of the hangars at the Schoenwalde airfield. About 30 soldiers were working on eight other planes of the same type, which were outside the hangars. Six to eight other planes of the same type did local flying. The sky was clear and visibility was medium. []

14. No twin-engine planes with double rudder assemblies were seen. However, they are believed to be still stationed at the field since they have been repeatedly seen flying over the field recently.

15. The radio station with four masts was still at the same place. The two radio trucks were also still standing west of the field. The dipole carrier was pointing from northeast to southwest. (10) The antenna did not move during the flying activities. The antiaircraft guns were covered with tarpaulins.

16. The entrance gate of the field was guarded by a sentry wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Motor vehicles seen passing through this gate included passenger car [] jeeps [] and trucks [] the latter driven by a soldier wearing blue epaulets. (11)

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[redacted] Comments.

- (1) [redacted] the AAA units at airfields are composed of army and not of air force soldiers.
- (2) The detachment is believed to have come from the headquarters of the ground attack division stationed at Doberitz.
- (3) According to a previous report, Colonel Vereshchinski (fnu) was the commanding officer of the ground attack regiment stationed at Schoenewalde. [redacted] The names Gorkin (fnu) and Utin (fnu) are reported for the first time.
- (4) [redacted] the training of the flying personnel. Special emphasis is laid on the training of leading personnel for night flying, bomb release at night, and blind flying. [redacted]

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(5)
(6)

- (7) [redacted] the presence of a ground attack regiment. The twin-engine aircraft of the reconnaissance regiment were still stationed in Schoenewalde.
- (8) Kamorov (fnu) was previously reported as being assigned to Unit [redacted]
- (9) [redacted] a special request in order to determine whether the duty hours observed indicated possible alert stages.
- (10) This set was reported previously. [redacted] It is a truck, the roof of which is fitted with an antenna system with seven dipoles.
- (11) [redacted]

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